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Message Text

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72
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /132 W
---------- 015104
R 131826Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9905
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14412

USNMR SHAPE FOR INTAF

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MILI, PFOR, XX, FR
SUBJECT: REVISED US FORCES ALERT PROCEDURES

REF: STATE 123453

1. WE WELCOME THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REFTEL, WHICH
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SUPPLEMENTS EARLIER GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN STATE 249808

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OF 1973. THE OUTLINED PROCEDURE WILL GO PART OF THE WAY TOWARD SATISFYING FRENCH (AND OTHER ALLIED) CONCERNS ABOUT U.S. UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH INVOLVE THE SECURITY OF OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES.

2. SEEN FROM PARIS, HOWEVER, THE PROCEDURE IN REFTEL DOES NOT GO TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM. PRIMARY FRENCH CONCERN RELATING TO THE OCTOBER 25 DECLARATION OF DEFCON 3 FOR US FORCES WAS THAT U.S.UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF AN INCREASED MILITARY READINESS POSTURE OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE HAD IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SECURITY OF ALL OF NATO EUROPE, NOT JUST THOSE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE U.S. FORCES WERE STATIONED. FRENCH FEEL THAT, WHERE THEIR SECURITY IS OR MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, THERE SHOULD BE SOME ARRANGEMENT FOR CONSULTATION, EVEN IF ONLY AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR, BUT PREFERABLY EARLIER, OBVIOUSLY DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH CONCERN OVER ABSENCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION (OR PRIOR NOTIFICATION THAT INCREASED U.S. READINESS POSTURE WAS A POSSIBILITY) IN OCTOBER WAS SHARED BY SEVERAL -- IF NOT ALL -- OF OUR OTHER EUROPEAN NATO ALLIES.

3. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT WE MAY NOT HAVE ALL THE PERTINENT FACTS THAT BEAR ON THIS PROBLEM AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSIDER BROADENING THE GUIDANCE IN REFTEL ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING, THE USG WILL INFORM AND CONSULT WITH ITS ALLIES CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECURITY SITUATION THAT WOULD BE LIKELY TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES TO INCREASE ITS DEFCON MILITARY POSTURE." MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES IF WE WERE TO INFORM THEM, AT NATO AND BILATERALLY IN CAPITALS, OF THE ARRANGEMENTS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL, SUPPLEMENTED, IF APPROVED, BY THE PROCEDURE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
IRWIN

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